

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 4-7 and 9-12 are allowed.

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 13-20, which better define the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the features recited in claims 13-20 is provided in the original claims and Fig. 9 and its accompanying description in the specification. Claims 15-19 recite features of allowed claims 3-7, respectively.

Claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Sawahashi et al. (US 6,069,912). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 13-20, Applicant respectfully traverses.

New claim 13 recites correcting the phase rotations that are applied to communication channel signals transmitted respectively from a plurality of antennas in a base station apparatus that implements transmit diversity. That is, claim 13 recites correcting the phase rotations that are deliberately applied to the communication channel signals by the base station.

In other words, the present invention is premised on rotating the phase of communication channel signals in the base

station apparatus beforehand, taking into account the phase fluctuations caused by the propagation path. The above-noted feature of the present invention provides the advantage of averaging channel estimation values over a plurality of slots and provides excellent reception performance even when closed-loop transmit diversity is employed.

By contrast to the above-noted claimed features, Sawahashi discloses calculating weight coefficients of individual antennas such that, where receive diversity is in use, the phase difference before compensation of phase fluctuations due to fading and after compensation is minimum. In other words, Sawahashi discloses adaptively controlling receive directivity, when receive diversity is in use, and compensating for the phase fluctuations due to fading.

Sawahashi does not teach or suggest providing a plurality of antennas at the transmitting end and employing transmit diversity such that signals are transmitted from the individual antennas with phase rotations applied. Moreover, Sawahashi does not teach or suggest the above-noted feature of the present invention of correcting the phase rotations that are deliberately applied to communication channels by a communicating party.

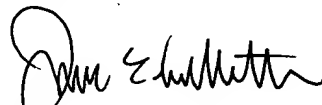
Accordingly, Applicant submits that Sawahashi does not disclose or suggest the subject matter defined by claim 13.

Independent claim 20 similarly recites the features distinguishing apparatus claim 13 from Sawahashi, but with respect to a method. For similar reasons that these features distinguish claim 13 from Sawahashi, so too do they distinguish claim 20. Therefore, allowance of claims 13 and 20 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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